



YOUR ENERGY CONNECTION

Your Home Energy Audit Is Just a Click Away

New Online Tools You Can Use to Manage Your Home Energy Costs

You use energy to make your home a comfortable place to live and power the appliances that cook your food, launder your clothes, operate your communication and entertainment systems and much more. Each month, you receive one or more bills for this energy. Though we all value the benefits that energy provides, we want to use energy wisely. Have you ever wondered:

- How much of your energy costs account for cooling and heating your home, water heating, cooking, laundry, etc.?
- What are the best things you can do to save energy and money?
- How much money you could save by installing a new home heating or cooling system, water heater or more efficient lighting?

Now you can easily answer these questions and many more about home energy use and costs. The city of Rocky Mount is pleased to offer you a powerful set of online energy tools known as Energy Depot®. You can access these tools at anytime to answer your energy questions, and there is never any cost to you.

What is Energy Depot?

Energy Depot is an Internet website that you can consider your energy information "tool box". It is filled with software tools designed to meet your energy information needs. Here are the tools you'll find in Energy Depot and what you can use each for:

Personal Energy Profile – Use the Personal Energy Profile tool to obtain the most comprehensive look at your home energy use and how you can save energy and money. You can choose either the detailed "Full Audit" or the abbreviated "EZ Audit". Regardless of which you choose, you'll receive an online report showing one year of energy use and cost by month, a breakout of your annual energy cost for each home energy system and appliance as well as specific recommendations of how to use energy more wisely and estimates savings for each. You can print your report and even save it to your computer. This profile report is personalized for you and is based on a questionnaire you complete online about your home, its energy systems and how you use them. It will analyze home systems using electricity, natural gas, propane and fuel oil. The software is easy to use and incorporates drop-down answer boxes and help screens.

Energy Calculator – Use the Energy Calculator to quickly estimate the annual energy use and costs for individual electric or natural gas home systems and appliances. Just answer one to four quick questions and receive your answer.

Energy Comparison Tool – Use the Energy Comparison Tool when you are considering replacing your home heating or cooling system or water heater. This software allows you to quickly compare your existing home heating, cooling (or combined heating and cooling) system or water heater with a range of new systems. You can also choose to compare different new systems with each other. You have a complete range of energy sources, equipment types and efficiencies to choose from. Enter the installed price from your contractor's bids and the software will estimate the time (payback period) it will take for you to recover the cost of more efficient systems through energy savings.

Energy Library – Use the Energy Library's collection of fact sheets to read more about home energy topics and ways to use energy more wisely. The Library also includes the top 100 more frequently asked questions on home energy use together with answers.

Get Started Today!

You can access Energy Depot at www.ci.rocky-mount.nc.us/utilities/. Look for the Energy Depot link on the opening page. The software will use your local weather data and energy costs for its calculations.

Energy Depot is a Product of Enercom®, Inc.

BEAT THE PEAK

“Peak” or “Peak Demand” is the greatest amount of electricity used at one time by an electric system, normally when a large number of customers are using appliances at the same time. By controlling the electric load or load management, we can keep electric costs in control. Rocky Mount averages approximately less than 10 days per month load managing. There are several options available:

Electric Water Heater Control-

Water heaters are cycled off during load management periods. Controlling water heaters will not affect the amount of hot water available. Customers receive **\$2.00** credit each month.

Electric Heat Strip Control-

Heat strips are controlled during the winter load management periods, while compressors continue to provide heat. Customers receive **\$15.00** credit each month if the temperature falls to 25 degrees or below on a non-holiday weekday.

Central Air Conditioning Total Control-

Customers receive **\$20.00** credit each month for July, August, and September. The compressor is turned off for the entire load management period. Fans will continue to circulate the cool air in your house, but your compressor will not generate any new cool air.

There are no installation or maintenance charges associated with this program.

**Call 972-1283 for more information .
Start your savings now!**



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Recognizing a Natural Gas Leak

- Leaks from natural gas lines, although rare, can be a fire hazard. It is important to know how to recognize them and what to do in case one occurs in your community.
- Recognizing Pipeline Leaks:
 - • A smell of rotten eggs
 - • A hissing sound
 - • Dirt being blown into the air
 - • Continual bubbling in a pond, river or creek
 - • Plants that seem to be dead or dying for no reason
- What to Do:
 - • Call 972-1278 to report a gas leak
 - • Go away from the area
 - • Do not use electricity or fire. Even the tiniest spark from a cell phone, flashlight, or match could ignite the gas.
 - • Do NOT go back to the area until utility representatives tell you it is safe to do so

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

North Carolina Weatherization Assistance Program

Purpose: The Weatherization Assistance Program is designed to help low-income citizens save energy and reduce expenses through the installation of energy conservation materials, the implementation of energy efficiency measures in their homes and energy education.

Goal: The goal of the program is to create a safe, energy efficient and comfortable home environment for the families served. Priority is placed on providing assistance to the elderly, individuals with disabilities and families with children.

Eligibility: Families with incomes below 150% of poverty or those receiving cash assistance payments under TANF or SSI are eligible for weatherization services. Over eighty percent of the families served in North Carolina have annual incomes below \$15,000. The 3500 families that benefit from the program annually save an average of \$300 in energy costs per year throughout the life time of the installed measures.

Program Scope: The North Carolina Weatherization Assistance Program is implemented in all counties in the state through thirty-three (33) sub recipients. Agency staff conduct an energy audit and performs diagnostic testing to determine air infiltration, heat loss, levels of carbon monoxide and identify recommended energy efficiency, safety and health measures. Measures installed may include: air sealing; insulation of attics, walls, and floors; duct sealing and insulation; water heater tank wrap and other general heat waste measures.

Funding: Funding for the \$10 million Weatherization Assistance Program is provided through the U.S. Department of Energy, the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and Petroleum Violation Escrow funds available to the state.

Heating and Air Repair and Replacement Program

Description: The Heating and Air Repair and Replacement Program works in concert with the Weatherization Assistance Program to repair and/or replace inefficient heating and air systems in the homes of low-income families, especially the elderly, individuals with disabilities and families with children.

Eligibility: Program eligibility is the same as the Weatherization Assistance Program.

Services: All homes that are weatherized receive an energy audit and diagnostic testing to determine levels of carbon monoxide and to identify recommended health, safety and air/heating system energy efficiency measures to be undertaken.

Funding: The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, provides funding for the \$ 2.0 million Heating and Air Repair and Replacement Program. Over 900 low-income families receive services through the program annually.